

fluence recovery, such as type of treatment. By this time there were only 94 cases left in each group. But there was no difference between the two groups in duration of illness.

Certain personality traits characterize those psychoneurotic patients who are going to respond to treatment, Dr. Selig Rosenberg of the Brooklyn (N.Y.) Veterans Administration Regional Office told the same meeting.

Veterans who improved under treatment had higher intelligence, greater productivity, less resistance to change, greater range of interests, greater emotional depth, more sensitivity, higher energy level and less concern over their own aches and pains than did the psychoneurotics tested who failed to improve.

What makes the difference, Dr. Rosenberg believes, is that the patients with these personality traits had more ability and desire to do their part toward getting well.

## 8 Out of 100 Maladjusted

► WHEN TEACHERS pick the children in their care who need the help of a mental health clinic they select eight out of every 100. But these eight are not necessarily those most in need of help.

This is shown by a survey reported to the psychologists by Dr. Charles A. Ullmann, who worked in the Prince Georges County, Md., Mental Health Clinic, a demonstration clinic of the U. S. Public Health Service.

Four boys to every one girl were picked by teachers as being seriously maladjusted. That is about the same proportion of boys and girls as are taken before the juvenile courts. Classmates picked an even higher proportion of boys as maladjusted.

That is because the mental health problems of boys are the kind that get them into trouble—restlessness, sex drives, and a resentment of authority and school demands.

Girls are more likely to suffer from inner conflict, worry, over-dependence on others, timidity and concern over bodily ailments.

Teachers are likely to regard the polite, obedient child as mentally healthy.

Thus it is the sullen, defiant boy who is likely to be taken to juvenile court. Nothing is done for the shy, worried girl until she finds her way eventually as an adult to a mental health clinic or mental hospital.

And the doctor at the children's mental health clinic is most likely to see the unwilling, antagonistic patient who is least likely to cooperate and benefit from treatment.

It may be desirable, Dr. Ullmann suggested, to develop a new technique for referring patients so that cases will be picked that will give the greatest return in community mental health for the least expenditure of professional time.

Science News Letter, September 13, 1952

An estimated 15% of America's motorists have *vision* so far below standard that it is dangerous for them to drive a car.

## SOCIOLOGY

# Loyalty Oaths Lashed

Society for the Study of Social Problems charges loyalty oaths being used by some groups to make their ideas about democracy the only acceptable view.

►HITTING OUT against "loyalty oaths" and against a continuing trend of encroachment of religious sects in the schools, an organization of sociologists has called for vigorous fights against both.

Loyalty oaths, said a committee of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, meeting in Atlantic City, have become the method used by organizations and groups with a narrow view of democracy to make their view of loyalty the only view. This, the group said, makes it possible for all forms of bigotry, intolerance, totalitarianism and organized ignorance to use organized power to substitute another concept of loyalty for the democratic concept.

The trend toward increasing use of public tax money to pay for education under religious auspices is a direct threat to the basic fundamentals of sociology, the group declared. Sociologists base their beliefs on natural fact, it was said; where the facts are not demonstrated, the sociologist is agnostic.

Religious beliefs are based on faith and, as such, are therefore, antagonistic to sociological concepts of the family and society. If the sociologist wishes to supplant that which cannot be demonstrated from the facts with a faith, that is his private right, but it has nothing to do with sociology, the group said.

The committee of sociologists pointed out that the framers of the American constitution argued long about the relation of the church to the state. They decided, the committee said, that the two must be completely separated. The committee said that the fight to maintain this separation is a practical fight in which all sociologists must participate.

Even before the appearance of the loyalty scare, the committee said, sociology was looked upon as a subversive science, because of its desire to find the truth concerning sex, race, crime, propaganda, power and the forces of ignorance and superstition. There is already a tendency among teachers and even scholars, the committee pointed out, to preface their remarks on a subject by disowning communism, Marxism, Russia and other things which they never owned, in order that their positions may not be misconstrued.

Sociology, the group concluded, has an inherently rebellious aspect in that its aim is to ask questions involving the very way in which society is organized; and if that be disloyalty, it will simply be necessary for us to see that ignorance and bigotry do not make the most of it.

The Society for the Study of Social Prob-

lems was organized to promote and protect sociological research and teaching on significant problems of social life.

Science News Letter, September 13, 1952

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. 62 SEPTEMBER 13, 1952 No. 11

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N. St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C., NORTH 2255. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscription rates: 1 yr., \$5.50; 2 yrs., \$10.00; 3 yrs., \$14.50; single copy, 15 cents, more than six months old, 25 cents. No charge for foreign postage.

Change of address: Three weeks notice is required. When ordering a change please state exactly how magazine is now addressed. Your new address should include postal zone number if you have one.

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Printed in U. S. A. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Washington, D. C., under the act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at the special rate of postage provided for by Sec. 3440, P. L. and R., 1948 Edition, paragraph (d) (act of February 28, 1925; 39 U. S. Code 283), authorized February 28, 1950. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Readers' Guide to periodical literature, Abridged Guide, and the Engineering Index.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation. Advertising Representatives: Howland and Howland, Inc., 393 7th Ave., N.Y.C., Pennsylvania 6-5566, and 360 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, State 2-4822.

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